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**ERG** 

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ERG GROUP | ERG GROUP

Our ref CMP-0014-01

19 November 2003

Securities and Exchange Commission Office of International Corporate Finance Division of Corporation Finance 450 Fifth Street, NW Washington, DC 20549 **USA** 



**Dear Sirs** 

ERG Rtd

# **Australian Stock Exchange Filing**

I enclose the following document lodged with the Australian Stock Exchange today:

Media Release headed "TransLink® Smart Card Fare Collection System Approved for Rollout by Metropolitan Transportation Commission".

Yours faithfully

**Clare Barrett-Lennard** 

Company Secretary

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Australian Stock Exchange Limited ABN 98 008 624 691 Exchange Centre Level 4 , 20 Bridge Street Sydney NSW 2000

PO Box H224 Australia Square NSW 1215

Telephone 61 2 9227 0334

Internet http://www.asx.com.au DX 10427 Stock Exchange Sydney

**FACSIMILE** 

Department: COMPANY ANNOUNCEMENTS OFFICE

DATE:

19/11/2003

TIME:

11:23:23

TO:

**ERG LIMITED** 

FAX NO:

08-9273-1208

FROM:

AUSTRALIAN STOCK EXCHANGE LIMITED - Company Announcements Office

SUBJECT:

CONFIRMATION OF RECEIPT AND RELEASE OF ANNOUNCEMENT

## MESSAGE:

We confirm the receipt and release to the market of an announcement regarding:

Translink Smart Card System approved for rollout

## PLEASE NOTE:

In accordance with Guidance Note 14 of ASX Listing Rules -

- Use of ASX Online for lodgement of company announcements becomes mandatory from 1 July 2003
- Handwritten and hand-delivered company announcements are no longer accepted
- Fee of A\$38.50 (including GST) applies from <u>1 March 2003</u> for announcements <u>faxed</u> to CAP
- New CAP fax number from 1 March 2003 for announcements sent within Australia is 1900 999 279

DATE

19 November 2003

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Robin@nealemay.com



GROUP

# TransLink® Smart Card Fare Collection System Approved for Rollout by Metropolitan Transportation Commission

Agency participation clears way for implementation of standardised regional fare payment system for San Francisco Bay Area commuters

ERG Transit Systems (USA) Inc, a member of the ERG Group and global leader in smart card based fare collection and management systems, today announced that six major transit agencies in the San Francisco Bay Area have now agreed to participate in a full-scale implementation of the Regional TransLink® smart card fare collection project.

The board of directors of the BART (Bay Area Rapid Transit District) approved its participation, joining San Francisco MUNI (Municipal Railway), AC Transit, Golden Gate Bridge Highway and Transportation District, Santa Clara Valley Transit Authority, and Caltrain in granting approval for the regional fare collection and settlement program.

The TransLink® system is expected to be operational among these agencies within the next two years and full implementation across all Bay Area transit operators is expected soon after.

While the Bay Area's Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) gave its approval earlier to move ahead with the project, the formal Notice to Proceed was the final and official action needed to implement the regional fare card system in the San Francisco Bay Area.

"A regional fare card is long overdue in the Bay Area and MTC is pleased to be moving ahead with this project after years of development and a very successful testing phase," said Randy Rentschler, spokesperson for MTC.

The project is worth approximately US\$150 million (A\$210 million) in revenue and extends ERG's operation and maintenance contract to a total of thirteen years after award of the five-year extension option.

TransLink® is one of the largest regional smart card based transit fare collection systems being developed in the United States. When fully operational, TransLink® will provide a single payment system encompassing transit systems operating in the San Francisco Bay Area, including buses, ferries, and light, medium and heavy rail systems. TransLink® is expected to handle more than 25 million smart card transactions every month. City travellers will only need the TransLink® smart card to pay the fare for bus, train, light rail or

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# TransLink® Smart Card Fare Collection System Approved for Rollout by Metropolitan Transportation Commission

ferry trips from Gilroy to the Napa Valley, dramatically simplifying mass transportation in the area. ERG will process all transactions and settle payments among operators daily.

"Regional fare collection and settlement is now becoming a reality for the San Francisco Bay Area," said Mike Nash, General Manager of ERG's American operations. "The tremendous value and benefits of region-wide smart card based fare collection have been proven around the world in systems developed by ERG. We're gratified that forward-thinking transit officials across North America, including those in major metro areas like San Francisco, Seattle and Washington DC, are committed to bringing those same benefits to their regions."

-END-

#### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

### **ERG Group**

The ERG Group is a world leader in the development and supply of integrated fare management and software systems for the transit industry, and for its smart card systems and services. The Group has installed systems in major cities throughout the world including Hong Kong, Melbourne, Rome, San Francisco and Singapore with installations in progress in Gothenburg, Seattle, Stockholm, Sydney and Washington DC. ERG has delivered systems that support more than 20 million smart cards in circulation and handle approximately 5 billion transactions annually. The ERG Group is an Australian-based company, listed on the Australian Stock Exchange and employs 800 people in 11 countries.

Visit us at <www.erggroup.com>.